

1. (AMENDED) A user interface for use with a computer system, said user interface comprising:

a¹ selecting means for selecting from a list of predetermined computer applications and outputting a selection signal;

a conflict map containing a list of conflicts between the list of predetermined computer applications; and

conflict checking means, coupled to the selecting means and the conflict map, for receiving the selection signal, determining from the selection signal and the conflict map whether a potential conflict between computer applications could occur, and outputting a display message if a determination is made that a potential conflict could occur between computer applications.

3. (AMENDED) The user interface of claim 2, wherein said remote control comprises an infrared remote control and said input device interface further comprises:

a² converting means for converting infrared remote control signals to USB signals, said converting means receiving an infrared remote control signal, determining context of use of the infrared remote control signal, and generating a corresponding USB signal to communicate the infrared remote control signal to an intended device.

4. (AMENDED) A method of selecting among a predetermined plurality of computer applications to run on a computer system for presentation on a display screen, comprising the steps of:

selecting from a list of predetermined computer applications and outputting a selection signal,

receiving the selection signal and determining from the selection signal and a conflict map containing a list of conflicts between the

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cont

list of predetermined computer applications whether a potential conflict could occur, and

outputting a display message if a determination is made that a potential conflict could occur between computer applications.

6. (AMENDED) The method according to claim 5, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether a television or a computer monitor has been connected to the computer system, and

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selecting hardware in a video output device in the computer system to engage alternate video ports to produce an optimal quality output in response to said determining step.

7. (AMENDED) A method for selecting one of at least two predetermined device application modes in a microprocessor controlled television set-top system, comprising the steps of:

selecting a first device application mode from a predetermined menu of device application modes, which menu includes at least two such predetermined device application modes,

determining whether a second of said at least two such predetermined device application modes is active,

determining from a conflict map containing a list of device conflicts between the at least two predetermined device application modes whether a potential conflict could occur, and

initiating television presentation of activities relating to said first device application mode if it is determined a potential device conflict may not occur.

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16. (AMENDED) A set-top system comprising:

a television for producing images according to one or more application modes;

a microprocessor device in communication with said television, said microprocessor device including circuitry for implementing at least two predetermined application modes; and

a controller for selecting an application mode,

wherein said device is configured to determine activation status of at least a single non-selected application mode when a particular other activation mode is selected,

wherein said controller further comprises a selecting means for selecting from a list of predetermined applications and outputting a selection signal, and

said controller further comprises:

a conflict map containing a list of conflicts between the list of predetermined applications; and

conflict checking means, coupled to the selecting means and the conflict map, for receiving the selection signal, determining from the selection signal and the conflict map whether a potential conflict could occur, and outputting a display message if a determination is made that a potential conflict could occur.

18. (AMENDED) The set-top system of claim 16, wherein said selecting means comprises a remote control, said set-top system further comprising:

an input device interface, for receiving signals from the remote control and converting the signals from the remote control into command signals.

19. (AMENDED) The set-top system of claim 18, wherein said remote control comprises an infrared remote control and said input device interface further comprises:

converting means for converting infrared remote control signals to USB signals, said converting means receiving an infrared remote control signal, determining context of use of the infrared remote control signal, and generating a corresponding USB signal to communicate the infrared remote control signal to an intended device.

20. (AMENDED) A computer readable computer program product expressed in a selected computer readable medium, comprising:

a first computer code portion for selecting a first device application mode from a predetermined menu of device application modes, which menu includes at least two such predetermined device application modes;

a second computer code portion for determining whether a second of said at least two such predetermined device application modes is active; and

a third computer code portion for determining from a conflict map containing a list of device conflicts between the at least two predetermined device application modes whether a potential conflict could occur, and

a third computer code portion for initiating television presentation of activities relating to said first device application mode if it is determined a potential device conflict may not occur.